

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 OES-07 AGR-01 /076 W
-----029571 150724Z /11

R 141414Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6014
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07280

USEEC

PASS COMMERCE/NMFS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, YO, MR, SG, CA, PO, SP, XH, NO, SW, EFIS
SUBJ: EC FISHERY COUNCIL, APRIL 3, 1978

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 2174; (B) BRUSSELS 4557; (C) 77
BRUSSELS 18320; (D) ECA-72; (E) BRUSSELS 6264

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1. SUMMARY: IN THE ABSENCE OF A FRENCH MINISTER(BECAUSE
NO GOVERNMENT HAD YET BEEN FORMED), THE APRIL 3 EC
FISHERY COUNCIL WAS UNABLE TO RENEW ITS SUSPENDED DEBATE
ON AN EC INTERNAL FISHERY REGIME. COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF
EXTERNAL FISHERY ISSUES WAS ALSO BLOCKED, AS THE UK AND
IRELAND MAINTAINED RESERVES ON THE SIGNATURE OF A
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND NORWAY AND ON THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF 1978 FISHING QUOTAS FOR NORWAY, SWEDEN, AND THE FAROE ISLANDS. BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF EC FISHERY POLICY ARE TO BE ADDRESSED AGAIN BY THE FISHERY COUNCIL ON APRIL 24. END SUMMARY.

2. INTERNAL REGIME:

FEW COUNCIL OBSERVERS EXPECTED THAT THE MINISTERS WOULD ON APRIL 3 BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY REAL PROGRESS TOWARD NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN THE UK AND OTHER MEMBER STATES ON A COMMON INTERNAL FISHING REGIME (BRUSSELS 2174). WITH NO FRENCH MINISTER ON HAND, SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF INTERNAL POLICY WAS IMPOSSIBLE, AND FORMAL COUNCIL DEBATE ON THE POINT WAS LIMITED, WITH MINISTERS PAIRING OFF INTO BILATERAL SESSIONS AFTER THE MEETING. UK AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MINISTER SILKIN TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE BELIEVES PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE AT THE APRIL 24 COUNCIL, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT BRITISH DEMANDS REMAIN UNCHANGED (EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS FOR BRITISH FISHERMEN UP TO 12 MILES FROM SHORE; DOMINANT PREFERENCE FOR BRITISH FISHERMEN IN SHARE OF THE CATCH BETWEEN 12 AND 50 MILES; FULL AND SATISFACTORY CONSERVATION MEASURES; AND A "PROPER SHARE" OF ANY FUTURE GROWTH OF FISH STOCKS).

3. EXTERNAL REGIME:

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THE UK AND IRELAND MAINTAINED THAT FURTHER AGREEMENT ON THIRD COUNTRY QUOTAS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN THE ABSENCE OF PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON INTERNAL QUOTAS FOR EC MEMBER STATES. THE COUNCIL WAS THEREFORE UNABLE TO ACT ON EITHER THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS FOR NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH AND FAROESE 1978 QUOTAS, OR ON THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SIGNATURE OF AN EC/NORWAY FRAMEWORK FISHING ARRANGEMENT. THE MINISTERS DID AGREE TO EXTEND UNTIL APRIL 30 THE CURRENT INTERIM QUOTA ARRANGEMENTS FOR FISHING BY NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, AND FAROESE VESSELS, WHICH WERE TO EXPIRE ON APRIL 15 (BRUSSELS 4557). THE QUESTIONS OF 1978 QUOTAS AND OF THE NORWEGIAN AGREEMENT WILL AGAIN BE CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL ON APRIL 24.

4. THE COUNCIL ALSO TOOK NOTE OF PROGRESS REPORTS FROM EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH ON THE FOLLOWING EXTERNAL FISHING ISSUES:

(A) YUGOSLAVIA: GUNDELACH INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT HE IS PERSONALLY CONTINUING TO PRESS THE YUGOSLAVS TO AGREE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE COMMUNITY A FISHING AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE BILATERAL ITALIAN/YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT WHICH

EXPIRED AT THE END OF 1977 (77 BRUSSELS 18320).

(B) WEST AFRICA: GUNDELACH SAID NEGOTIATIONS WITH SENEGAL AND MAURITANIA ARE TO CONTINUE AND THAT HE WILL REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL LATER. HE SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE AWARE OF THE COMMUNITY'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A BALANCED AGREEMENT, BASED UPON EC COMPENSATION (FINANCIAL AND OTHER) IN EXCHANGE FOR FISHING RIGHTS. HE ADDED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUINEA BISSAU ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON. (77 BRUSSELS 18320.)

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R 141414Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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(C) CANADA: CONTACTS WITH CANADA ON BOTH BILATERAL FISHING MATTERS AND ON A SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION TO ICNAF ARE CONTINUING ON A FREQUENT BASIS.

(D) SPAIN: THE FIRST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD

MARCH 20-21; BOTH SIDES ARE NOW "REFLECTING" (ECA-72).

(E) PORTUGAL: THE GOP HAS EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO
ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EC; EXPLORATORY TALKS
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ARE EXPECTED TO BEGIN SOON.

(F) EASTERN EUROPE: NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN
FISHING RELATIONS WITH THE EAST EUROPEANS (BRUSSELS 6264).
GUNDELACH EMPHASIZED THAT THE EC WOULD HAVE TO BE
REPRESENTED AS SUCH IN RENEGOTIATION OF THE BALTIC
CONVENTION. HINTON

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